

**MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1997  
8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair  
Linda Steinman  
Darlene Tussing  
Larry Hudkins  
Steve Svoboda

Board Members Absent: Kathy Campbell

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director  
Brenda Fisher, Corrections Specialist  
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Susan Starcher, County Clerk's Office

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 1997 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING**

**MOTION:** Tussing moved and Svoboda seconded approval. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, distributed copies of the County Corrections Report (Exhibit A).

**2 POPULATION STATISTICS**

a. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported a 4.4% increase in population from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1997. He stated that a delay in convictions due to the absence of jury terms for one month in the summer and a longer holding period for domestic violence offenders were contributing factors.

Thurber reviewed the average length of stay statistics, noting that while the short-term lengths of stay decreased 0.8% this quarter, inmates held for more than two days averaged a length of stay of 15 to 17 days.

b. Corrections Statistical Report

Thurber reported an average daily population of 190.6 for the period of January - June, 1997 for the downtown facility. He stated that the low monthly population figures were also critical to the analysis. Thurber pointed out that the low daily population figure of 187 for the month of June was just 3 inmates below the daily population average for the quarter.

Thurber stated that the number of inmates booked remains around 10,000 each year, but the length of stay increases. He suggested that the addition of a Criminal Judge might significantly decrease the length of stay statistics.

Thurber reported that contracted housing for federal prisoners, through the U.S. Marshal's Service, has been reduced to 17 prisoners in response to the population averages.

Thurber also reported that an average daily population of 105.6 at the Airpark Correction Facility. He noted that the figure has remained fairly consistent since the year 1991.

### **3 SPECIAL REPORT**

a. Report by Brenda Fisher, Correctional Specialist

Brenda Fisher, Corrections Specialist, reported that the Program Staff is responsible for administrating approximately 140-150 programs each month at the two correctional facilities. She stated that these include performing administrative housing reviews, review of work release applications and a monitor of the work release program, mental health assessments and referrals, counseling sessions, facilitate emergency protective custody status, monitor suicide and behavior observation sheets, and conduct routine and special classification reviews at both correctional facilities.

Fisher stated that educational and self improvement programs such as the General Equivalency Degree (GED) program and testing, religious services, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, anger management, parenting and domestic violence programs, health issues education, arts and crafts programs and work release meetings are also provided to inmates.

Hudkins inquired about mechanisms for keeping contraband out of the Airpark Correctional facility.

Thurber stated that dogs from the Lincoln Police Department and Lancaster County Sheriff's office, cameras, information from inmates and physical searches of inmates are used.

#### **4 EVENTS**

##### **a. Health Department Inspections**

The food service facilities scored 97 of a possible 100 points relating to sanitation during a quarterly inspection by the City-County Health Department. No deficiencies were reported.

##### **b. Offender Transport**

Hiring and training of six transport positions for the assumption of both City and County transport functions was completed during the quarter.

During the first month of operations, 904 total transports were made. Of this total, 828 were for local court appearances and 76 were to other facilities within the County.

##### **c. Good News Prison Ministries**

Approximately \$14,000 was raised for jail ministries.

##### **d. Lincoln Food Bank Drive**

Corrections staff donated 6,021 lbs. of food to the drive.

#### **5 OTHER ITEMS**

##### **a. Outside Contracts**

The following outside contracts were reported:

1. U.S. Marshals Service
2. Interlocal Agreement between the City and County for Transport by Corrections
3. Vending Contract
4. Dental Services
5. Pharmaceutical Services

b. Lincoln Corrections Facility Construction Program Activities

Corrections crews relocated equipment and storage items for City and County agencies, completed demolition and reconstruction of offices in the jail's Programs area, completed maintenance and repairs at both correctional facilities and wiring at the "K" street facility.

c. Recruitment Activities

Continuous recruitment of correctional officers was initiated.

d. Litigation Pending

Five pending litigation cases were reported.

e. Legislative Activities

The following legislative bills were discussed:

1. LB364 (Reclassification of Class IV felonies)
2. LB769 (Offender co-payment of medical services)
3. LB405 (Increases the number of 90-day evaluations prior to sentencing)
4. LB695 (State funding of pre-trial felons held longer than 30 days and sentenced felons)

**6 NEW BUSINESS**

a. Population Changes Since July 1, 1997

A daily population average of 203.4 was reported.

Length of prosecution of offenders, difficulties in keeping a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) on staff, a shift to more part-time correctional officers and salaries as part of the recruitment process was also discussed.

**7 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Tussing moved and Steinman seconded to adjourn the meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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Kandra Hahn  
Lancaster County Clerk